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ABSTRACT

A Task Force on Research, an initial committee created by the Council for Interinstitutional Leadership, was established for several purposes: to monitor research activities dealing with consortia by soliciting information on projects underway, by offering advice to researchers, by developing up-to-date bibliographies, and by assembling reference materials. It will also attempt to improve future research projects and suggest potential evaluators of joint programs. This newsletter offers a listing of 42 dissertations already completed on consortia and 34 potential study topics compiled by the Task Force. A beginning 12-item bibliography is also included. (LBH)

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JULY, 1976

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TASK FORCE ON RESEARCH

A Task Force on Research, an initial committee created by the Board of Directors of the Council for Interinstitutional Leadership, is composed of Richard Ferrin, Salina College Consortium; Fritz Grupe (Chairman), Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley; Norman Kaufman, University of Utah; Byron Moore, Cooperating Winfield Colleges; and Lewis Patterson (ex officio). The Task Force has a number of purposes. It will attempt to monitor research activities dealing with consortia by soliciting information on projects underway; by offering advice to researchers; by developing up-to-date bibliographies; and by assembling reference materials. It will also attempt to improve future research projects by soliciting ideas for needed research; suggesting unexamined research priorities; and by providing advice and counsel to researchers. Undoubtedly the Task Force will undertake some research and dissemination projects on behalf of the Council, perhaps with extra-mural support. It is also willing to suggest potential evaluators of joint programs.

As a "first step," this issue of The Acquainter should be of interest to all of our members. Lewis Patterson has compiled a listing of dissertations already completed on consortia, and the Task Force has compiled a list of potential study topics which might be undertaken. The Task Force would be most interested in receiving the readership's advice on possible sources of funding for these efforts. Other reactions are also welcome.

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AN INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTARY COOPERATION IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PUBLISHED BY THE COUNCIL FOR INTERINSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP, 8606 JONES MILL ROAD, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20015 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND EDITOR: LEWIS D. PATTERSON

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POTENTIAL AREAS FOR RESEARCH

* Design of techniques for assessing costs and benefits of cooperative programs.

* Analysis of institutional characteristics conducive to active participation in cooperative programs.

* Assessment of attitudes toward consortia held by: (a) state agency staff; (b) foundation and other funding agency administrators; (c) college presidents; (d) deans and department chairmen; and (e) faculty.

* Analysis of factors leading to success of similar consortium programs in different settings.

* Design of techniques for merging college operations.

* Analysis of the governance process in consortia.

* Study of role conflict as focussed on directors of consortia.

* Design of computer techniques for consortium planning and administration.

* Case studies of individual consortia from various theoretical perspectives; (i.e., change agent, political system, open system, and communication networks.)

* Strategies for state agency intervention in consortial operations.

* Design of a manageable, long-range planning model for consortia.

* Hypothetical needs/benefit analysis model for initiating a consortium to serve unlinked colleges, especially for innovative purposes.

* Perception of campus environments as seen from other campuses, (as contrasted with "insiders.")

* Application of existing evaluative criteria to consortia.

* Guidelines for evaluating and improving the process of interaction and articulation.

* A comparative analysis of higher education consortia and public school intermediate units (boards of cooperative educational services.)

* Design of a simulation model for staff orientation and training.

* Examination of the characteristics of "cooperators." Are they the same as "innovators?"

* Assessment of multi-institutional economic impacts on a region.

* Inventory and descriptions of replicable programs.

* Governing board composition and the effect of variations on consortium operations.

* Examination of the potential role of consortia in areas such as: (a) planning; (b) program review and approval; (c) retrenchment decision-making; (d) stimulating intra-institutional innovation; (e) faculty development and orientation; (f) institutional research; (g) time free/space-free learning; and (h) student personnel programming.

* Evaluation of multiple-site, but similar consortial programs.

* Study of institutional goal clarity and its effect on participation in a consortium.

* A study of curriculum changes initiated by consortia.

* The role of the faculty in consortium operations.

* Measures of consortium outcomes-criteria and taxonomies.

* Patterns of student participation in cross registration. Who cross registers? Why? How successfully?

* Psychological-sociological analysis of the dynamics of inter-institutional encounters.

* Techniques for relating consortia to non-educational agencies.

* Development of typologies of consortia for various analytical rather than inventory purposes.

* Inventory and descriptions of successful facilities-sharing techniques.

* Analysis of factors and values involved in institutional decision-making among cooperative vs. independent choices.

* Approaches to the evaluation of consortia and their programs.

* Consortia as the focus for racial integration efforts in postsecondary education.

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FINAL NOTE

Researchers who seek the cooperation of the Council for Interinstitutional Leadership are counseled to consult closely with the CIL Task Force on Research. Contact:

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Researchers are also requested to provide the Council with one bound copy of their findings for the CIL Special Collection Reference Library.

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SUPPLEMENT No. 1

THE ACQUAINTER, July, 1976. TASK FORCE ON RESEARCH

COMPLETED DISSERTATIONS

Flair, T. V. "An Analysis of the Relationship of Selected Institutional Characteristics to Consortial Participation in the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities." N/A, 1976.

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October 13, 1976